

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9247

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO EG

SUBJECT: WRAPUP ON SADAT VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT LEFT ROMANIA WELL PLEASED WITH HIS 4-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT, WHICH RESULTED IN FEW SURPRISES BUT CLEARLY POINTED UP THE DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES TO DEVELOP THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS FURTHER, EACH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS OWN BROADER FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. FROM THE EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE VISIT WAS THE ROMANIAN OFFER OF 100 MILLION DOLLAR LONG-TERM CREDIT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NEWLY-CREATED "JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE." ON THE ROMANIAN SIDE THE VISIT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT FORWARD STEP IN THE GOR'S CONTINUING POLICY OF STRENGTHENING ITS TIES WITH THE ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.

2. CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT, AND OVERLAPPING THE STAYS OF THE COLUMBIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, PRESIDENT SADAT'S OFFICIAL
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SOJOURN WAS THE HIGH POINT SO FAR OF ROMANIA'S BUSY

SUMMER VISIT SEASON. INCLUDING THE USUAL BLEND OF OFFICIAL TALKS WITH IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL AND SIGHTSEEING, THE VISIT WAS GIVEN WARM AND EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE THROUGHOUT. THE INEVITABLE JOINT SOLEMN DECLARATION AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE WERE FAIRLY STANDARD FARE, THOUGH THE ROMANIANS EXPANDED THEIR USUAL CONDEMNATION OF ACQUIRING TERRITORY BY FORCE TO INCLUDE "OR BY ANY OTHER MEANS," WHILE THE EGYPTIAN SIDE OBTAINED CLEARCUT LANGUAGE SUPPORTING THE PLO AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

3. IN REVIEWING THE VISIT WITH THE AMBASSADOR, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR OSMAN ASSAL SAID THAT SADAT LEFT ROMANIA WELL PLEASED WITH THE WAY THINGS HAD GONE. REGARDING THE CREDIT, ASSAL WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE ROMANIANS ATTACHED AS MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ITS POLITICAL ASPECT AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB CAUSE AS TO THE ECONOMIC FACTOR. NO SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR USE OF THE CREDIT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED, THOUGH THE ROMANIAN SIDE TALKED PARTICULARLY OF POSSIBILITIES IN PETROLEUM SECTOR. THE JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE, WHICH REPLACES THE EARLIER (1971) JOINT COMMISSION, IS BASED ON THE US-EGYPTIAN MODEL, AND ASSAL SAID THE ROMANIANS WERE PLEASED TO BE FIRST SOCIALIST COUNTRY OFFERED THIS FORM OF COLLABORATION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL ALSO HAVE TO TRY TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THEN THEY HAVE SO FAR OF THE ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR ONE OF 1971, OF WHICH ONLY FIVE PER CENT HAS BEEN UTILIZED.

4. ASSAL SAID HE DID NOT HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE EGYPTIAN WAR PRODUCTION MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS, BUT ASSUMED THAT THE MINISTER HAD ACCOMPANIED SADAT TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF ROMANIA'S MEETING VARIOUS EGYPTIAN NEEDS FOR ITEMS RANGING FROM "SMALL ARMS TO AMBULANCES," IN LINE WITH THE RECENT DECISION TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF MILITARY SUPPLIES. THE AMBASSADOR WAS SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE ONLY EXPLORATORY.

5. COMMENT: AS SEEN FROM BUCHAREST, THE SADAT VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL FOR BOTH SIDES, AND THE PERSONAL WARMTH SHOWN BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS GAVE EVERY CONFIDENTIAL

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SIGN OF BEING GENUINE. THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH WE KNOW (FROM THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR) THAT THE ROMANIANS WERE REBUFFED WAS IN THEIR DESIRE FOR MORE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN THE FINAL DOCUMENTS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES (I.E., ROMANIA) BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.
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